

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. **(Original)** A rolling bearing comprising an inner ring and an outer ring made of a bearing steel, a carburized steel or a carbon steel for mechanical structures, and a plurality of rolling elements mounted between said inner ring and said outer ring, wherein to the surface layer of at least one of said inner ring and said outer ring, a compressive stress of not less than 200 MPa is imparted by heat treatment including carbonitriding and induction hardening.
2. **(Original)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 1 wherein among said inner and outer rings, one that has been subjected to said heat treatment has a tempering hardness at 500 °C of not less than Hv 550 in the surface layer thereof.
3. **(Currently amended)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein among said inner and outer rings, one that has been subjected to said heat treatment has a prior austenite grain diameter of not less than Gc 10 in the surface layer thereof.
4. **(Currently amended)** A rolling bearing as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1 wherein said heat treatment includes high-temperature tempering between carbonitriding and induction hardening.
5. **(Currently amended)** A rolling bearing as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-4~~ claim 1 wherein said rolling elements are rollers and are arranged in a full compliment arrangement.
6. **(Currently amended)** A rolling bearing as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 mounted in a rocker arm of an automobile.

7. **(New)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 2 wherein among said inner and outer rings, one that has been subjected to said heat treatment has a prior austenite grain diameter of not less than Gc 10 in the surface layer thereof.

8. **(New)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 2 wherein said heat treatment includes high-temperature tempering between carbonitriding and induction hardening.

9. **(New)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 3 wherein said heat treatment includes high-temperature tempering between carbonitriding and induction hardening.

10. **(New)** rolling bearing as claimed in claim 2 wherein said rolling elements are rollers and are arranged in a full compliment arrangement.

11. **(New)** rolling bearing as claimed in claim 3 wherein said rolling elements are rollers and are arranged in a full compliment arrangement.

12. **(New)** rolling bearing as claimed in claim 4 wherein said rolling elements are rollers and are arranged in a full compliment arrangement.

13. **(New)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 2 mounted in a rocker arm of an automobile.

14. **(New)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 3 mounted in a rocker arm of an automobile.

15. **(New)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 4 mounted in a rocker arm of an automobile.

16. **(New)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 5 mounted in a rocker arm of an automobile.